

Creating a Collaborative Data System for Healthier Communities

Healthy Living Collaborative of Southwest Washington leads the way in creating a cross-sector, community-based data system to help providers and organizations better understand the needs of their communities.

When a patient goes to the doctor's office, medical records only show part of their story. At-risk populations are often facing complex health conditions, behavioral health issues, and other issues that are made worse by housing instability, food insecurity, unemployment, and more.

To ensure that providers are more connected to their communities and the needs of at-risk populations, Healthy Living Collaborative (HLC) of Southwest Washington partnered with PeaceHealth, a not-for-profit health care system, and other local partners to form the Connections Workgroup.

The goal of the workgroup is to put communities at the heart of clinical care and health system reform—to make them active partners, rather than targets, of that reform.

The workgroup brings together the health care, public health, community services, criminal justice, education, and housing sectors to build a system of data sharing that would help to fill in

the gaps about patients and their circumstances. By having this missing information, providers can give better care to their patients across Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties.

In addition, this cross-sector data system would tell organizations, such as HLC, and health care systems where to invest and what interventions will have the greatest impact.

Building a Community-Based Data System

To build this complex data system, HLC is partnering with Providence Center for Outcomes Research & Education, a non-profit research laboratory that has been at the forefront of similar work in Oregon.

To ensure a collaborative regional approach to building community-based data infrastructure, the HLC supported site visits with 17 multi-sector partners in Southwest Washington.



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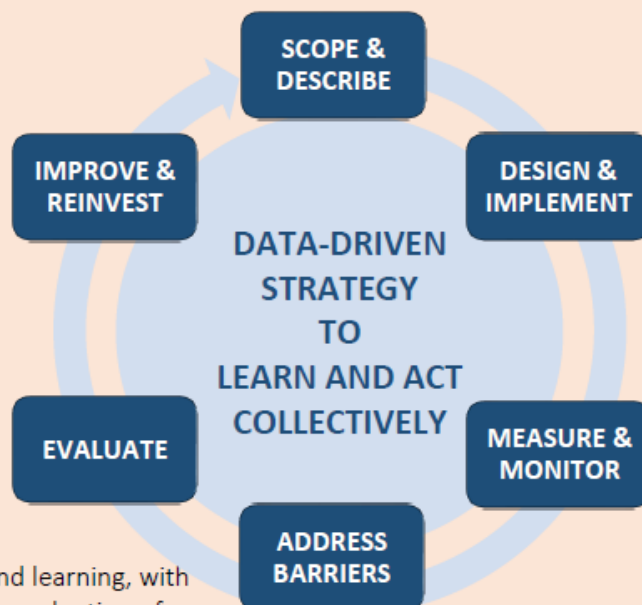
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KEY TAKEAWAY – REGIONS NEED A DATA-DRIVEN STRATEGY TO LEARN AND ACT COLLECTIVELY

The key takeaway from the site visits is that partners are ready to be empowered to **learn, plan, and act together for collective impact**. As cutting-edge interventions are implemented to transform communities, it is critical that appropriate **data is shared and measured from the outset**. Sectors strongly expressed the need to have data to:

- Scope and describe the magnitude and nature of community need.
- Design and implement interventions to address need.
- Measure and monitor efforts.
- Identify key partners for eliminating policy and systems issues and improve community care coordination.
- Evaluate intervention impact.
- Support intervention improvement and decision-making for re-investment of any shared savings.

The strategy supports a continuous cycle of improvement and learning, with immediate opportunities to use the system and analytics for evaluation of current efforts and upcoming design of future collective interventions.



Quick Facts About 1422

State investments in community

\$1.62 million annually

Number of years awarded

4

Number of funded communities

5

Total number of counties reached

22

Total potential reach

2,108,010 adult community members

Participants shared many examples of how cross-sector data could be used to improve health interventions. (See graphic above for themes that emerged.)

Community Health Worker Pilot

The HLC Community Health Worker pilot that was launched in the spring of 2014 will be a key component of community-based data collection.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are non-clinical peer practitioners who have both training and life experiences that contribute to their knowledge of health issues and the health care system. They understand the social determinants of health that significantly contribute to poor health outcomes.

Healthy Living Collaborative has 30 Community Health Workers across the region working in communities with individuals and families to help improve their health. They are trusted members of the communities they serve, so they are in a unique position to engage people that professionals have difficulty reaching.

HLC's Community Health Workers will help to define relevant data measures for the communities they work in and be at the forefront of collecting that information as the project gets off the ground.



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